

To: Washburn, Ben[washburn.ben@epa.gov]
From: Quirarte-Ortiz, Cecilia
Sent: Fri 8/1/2014 2:28:36 PM
Subject: RE: OPA Daily Digest 7/31/14

Posted 7/31/14 today. Left early yesterday.

From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 4:43 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 7/31/14

OPA Daily Digest for 7/31/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Charles Grassley (Iowa) – Letter – 7/24/14: Abandoned school site contaminated with asbestos in Letts, Iowa. Due: 7/24/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.); **Sen. Roy Blunt** (Mo.); **Rep. William Lacy Clay** (Mo.); **Rep. Ann Wagner** (Mo.) – Letter – 7/18/14: West Lake Landfill. Due: 8/1/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

Sen. Gary Romine, Sen. Doug Libla, Sen. Gina Walsh, Rep. Paul Wieland, Rep. Paul Fitzwater, Rep. TJ McKenna – Letter – 7/25/14: Express concerns about characterization of many areas of Missouri as “contaminated.” Due: 8/7/14. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Press Inquiries:

E-Scrap News – Bobby Elliott – 7/29/14: Questions regarding cathode ray tube (CRT) recycling by Doe Run Corp. in their secondary lead smelter. Referral from Missouri DNR. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

Webb City (Mo.) Sentinel – Bob Foos – 7/30/14: Questions about new cleanup activity near Neck City, Mo., related to Oronogo-Duenweg Superfund Site. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KSDK Channel 5, St. Louis – Grant Bissell – 7/30/14: Questions about surface soil sampling for radiation done by Pattonville School District. Referred reporter to the private engineering firm that conducted the sampling and analysis. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis – Veronique LaCapra – 7/30/14: Notified the reporter about the online posting of EPA's response to a recent statement from the West Lake Landfill Community Advisory Group's Executive Committee. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch – Blythe Bernhard – 7/30/14: Notified the reporter about the online posting of EPA's response to a recent statement from the West Lake Landfill Community Advisory Group's Executive Committee. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KMOX Radio, St. Louis – Kevin Killeen – 7/31/14: Questions about availability of EPA Region 7's response to recent letter from Congressional delegation regarding timetable for actions involving isolation barrier project at West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis – Veronique LaCapra – 7/31/14: Questions about final survey report for the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

KMOX Radio, St. Louis – Kevin Killeen – 7/31/14: Questions about final survey report for the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

MissouriNet – Bob Priddy – 7/31/14: Questions about ADM enforcement case. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Pattonville schools near West Lake Landfill cleared in radiation testing - 7/30/14 - Soil collected in June from Pattonville High and Rose Acres Elementary schools, which are two miles from the radioactive West Lake Landfill, did not show high levels of radiation, according to a report from a St. Charles engineering firm. http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/health/pattonville-schools-near-west-lake-landfill-cleared-in-radiation-testing/article_3dff1812-dc1f-5735-8649-97ebd84806fb.html

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Radiation test at Pattonville high School - 7/31/14 - An unnaturally high radiation spike at Pattonville high school is raising some eyebrows. The school sits just 2 miles from the radioactive West lake Landfill in Bridgeton. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/07/31/radiation-pattonville-high-school/13395327/>

Associated Press - Firm says Missouri school soil isn't hazardous - 7/31/14 - An engineering firm hired by a Bridgeton-area school district has concluded that soil from schools 2 miles from a radioactive landfill didn't show high levels of radiation. <http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Firm-says-Missouri-school-soil-isn-t-hazardous-5658656.php>

KTVI Ch. 2 St. Louis - Pattonville given all clear on testing for radioactive material - 7/30/14 - Pattonville School District parents can breathe easier Wednesday after getting news from the school district that recent soil testing from two schools located near the Bridgeton and West Lake Landfills came back negative for radioactive material. <http://fox2now.com/2014/07/30/pattonville-given-all-clear-on-testing-for-radioactive-material/>

Cedar Rapids Gazette (Iowa) - ADM settles violations of Clean Water Act - 7/31/14 - Agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland will pay the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \$430,000 to settle allegations that it violated the federal Clean Water Act at five of its facilities, including Cedar Rapids. <http://thegazette.com/subject/news/business/adm-settles-violations-of-clean-water-act-20140731#sthash.bDIrv9IU.dpuf>

KWWL Ch. 7 Waterloo, Iowa - Oil storage company with Cedar Rapids facility to pay EPA fine - 7/31/14 - Federal regulators say Archer Daniels Midland Co. has agreed to settle allegations that it violated Clean Water Act rules at oil storage facilities in Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. <http://www.kwwl.com/story/26153942/2014/07/30/oil-storage-company-with-cedar-rapids-facility-to-pay-epa-fine>

Water World - Archer Daniels settles CWA violations at five large oil storage plants across U.S. - 7/30/14 - Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), a major food processing and commodities trading company headquartered in Decatur, Ill., has agreed to settle allegations of Clean Water Act (CWA) violations at five different large oil storage facilities in the cities of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Columbus, Neb.; Des Moines, Iowa; Mexico, Mo.; and Deerfield, Mo. <http://www.waterworld.com/articles/2014/07/settlement-of-clean-water-act-violations-aims-to-prevent-future-oil-spills-by-major-company.html>

Kansas First News (KSNT), Topeka, Kan. - Kansas City groups get \$120K for Middle Blue River - 7/31/14 -
Two Kansas City nonprofits are getting a total of about \$120,000 in federal funds to improve areas around the Middle Blue River. <http://kansasfirstnews.com/2014/07/31/kansas-city-groups-get-120k-for-middle-blue-river/>

KMOX Radio St. Louis - Stenger: Dooley Has Conflict of Interest in Burning Bridgeton Landfill - 7/31/14 -
Charlie Dooley's challenger in the race for St. Louis County Executive is accusing him of a conflict of interest on the burning Bridgeton landfill. Steve Stenger says it's wrong for the nuclear dump site spokesman, Richard Callow, to also be playing a role in the Dooley re-election effort. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/07/31/stenger-dooley-has-conflict-of-interest-in-burning-bridgeton-landfill/>

Des Moines Register - State environmental protection commission to consider livestock oversight rules Aug. 19 - 7/31/14 - The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission will consider adopting rules that outline oversight of concentrated animal feeding operations at its Aug. 19 meeting.
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/green-fields/2014/07/31/state-considers-livestock-oversight-rules-aug-19/13412319/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

Clinton Herald - Well affected by mercury spill is working again - 7/31/14 - Mercury remains in one of Clinton's Archer Daniels Midland wells, stemming from a November 2013 spill. But according to an independent study, threat levels are below Iowa Department of Natural Resources standards. The affected Well No. 4 returned to operation earlier this month <http://www.clintonherald.com/local/x1926571456/Well-affected-by-mercury-spill-is-working-again>

KCCI Ch. 8 Cedar Rapids, Iowa - DNR: Goats munch through acres of weeds - 7/31/14 - An Iowa government official says the state's plan to use goats to clear away vegetation is an initial success.
<http://www.kcci.com/news/dnr-goats-munch-through-acres-of-weeds/27242122>

St. James Leader-Journal (Mo.) - Removal of storage tanks should be left to professional - 7/30/14 - Phelps County could use its own forces to remove underground storage tanks, but one county commissioner thought a professional may be better at doing so. <http://www.leaderjournal.com/article/20140730/News/140739859>

Reynolds County Courier - GM Says Progress Continues at Doe Run West Fork Mine Site - 7/30/14 - Steve Batts, general manager of The Doe Run Company (Doe Run) Southeast Missouri Mining and Milling (SEMO) Division, shared a progress update related to the West Fork site.
http://www.waynecojournalbanner.com/reynolds_county/news/article_ff2d1fd4-1818-11e4-ae95-001a4bcf6878.html

The Maneater (University of Missouri-Columbia) - Wetlands essential for migrating mallards, MU researchers find - 7/29/14 - A recent study involving MU researchers found that wetland sanctuaries, including many Missouri wetlands, are seeing plenty of use from migratory waterfowl.
<http://www.themaneater.com/stories/2014/7/29/wetlands-essential-migrating-mallards-mu-researcher/>

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier - Braley, Ernst spar over Renewable Fuels Standard - 7/30/14 - Inconsistent is how Democrat Patty Judge describes Republican U.S. Senate candidate Joni Ernst's stance on the federal renewable fuel standard. http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/update-braley-ernst-spar-over-renewable-fuels-standard/article_0c059e75-44b7-59d8-be61-ad3101d79691.html

Des Moines Register - Iowa's largest solar farm in operation - 7/31/14 - A half dozen years ago, little solar energy was generated in southeast Iowa, said Warren McKenna, CEO of Farmers Electric Cooperative. Today, the rural utility, along with local, state and federal leaders, will celebrate the operation of the state's largest solar farm near Kalona, just south of Iowa City. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2014/07/31/farmers-electric-cooperative-iowas-largest-solar-farm-kalona/13395793/>

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Quad-City Times - Petition drive opposes Iowa oil pipeline - 7/30/14 - A citizens' action network has started a petition drive urging Gov. Terry Branstad to reject a proposed crude oil pipeline that would stretch diagonally across Iowa with planned operation to begin by the end of 2016. http://qctimes.com/news/local/government-and-politics/petition-drive-opposes-iowa-oil-pipeline/article_e793bb1c-f184-55bd-9931-315fce2eecd2.html

Politico - Iowa Senate: Ethanol fuels a clash in corn country - 7/30/14 - Iowa — Rep. Bruce Braley is betting the farm on corn — and Democrats' hold on the Senate may be in danger if he's wrong.
<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/07/ethanol-fuels-iowa-109557.html>

Reuters - Biofuel groups press White House on more than just 2014 targets - 7/30/14 - The U.S. biofuel industry is urging the Obama administration to go beyond simply raising proposed targets for use of the fuels, making the case instead for fundamental changes to the government's approach to the renewable fuel program.
<http://kfgo.com/news/articles/2014/jul/30/biofuel-groups-press-white-house-on-more-than-just-2014-targets/>

National Journal - The Simmering Climate Battle Over Natural-Gas Exports - 7/30/14 - A fight is brewing over whether Energy Department regulators should weigh the impact of liquefied natural gas on global warming.
<http://www.nationaljournal.com/energy/the-simmering-climate-battle-over-natural-gas-exports-20140730>

Christian Science Monitor - Paul Ryan: 'Climate change occurs no matter what' (+video) - 7/30/14 - Rep. Paul Ryan said the Obama administrations efforts to address climate change won't solve the problem but will hurt the US

economy. He said new EPA rules are a classic example of executive branch overreach.

http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Politics/monitor_breakfast/2014/0730/Paul-Ryan-Climate-change-occurs-no-matter-what-video

Think Progress - How Climate Denial Could Cost This Iowa Senate Candidate An Election - 7/30/14 - Storm clouds are beginning to gather for Joni Ernst, the Republicans' contender for Iowa's Senate seat this November. Several liberal and environmental groups have targeted her with campaigns aimed at highlighting her climate positions and the money she's received from the Koch Brothers and other fossil fuel groups.

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/07/30/3465997/ernst-iowa-climate-senate-race/>

Brownfield Ag News - NCBA official warns of water rule's 'significant impact' - 7/31/14 - The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is encouraging its members and all cattlemen to submit comments on the EPA's "Waters of the U.S." rule.

NCBA environmental counsel Ashley McDonald says, in the case of cattlemen, the impact of the rule will be significant. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/07/30/ncba-official-warns-of-water-rules-significant-impact/>

Society of Environmental Journalists - What the Public Isn't Allowed To Know Could Kill You - 7/30/14 - You'd think that if U.S. chemical facilities could be used as weapons of mass destruction by terrorists, the government would do something about it. You'd be wrong. It wasn't EPA that tried to keep the public from knowing about the catastrophic threats from chemical facilities. It was Congress, working at the behest of the chemical industry. <http://www.sej.org/publications/watchdog-tipsheet/what-public-isnt-allowed-know-could-kill-you>

Fox News - Republican report alleges 'billionaire's club' funding environmental causes through 'shady' network - 7/30/14 - An "elite" group of liberal "millionaires and billionaires" is pumping money into an elaborate network of environmental groups to influence EPA policies, even using "shady" donations from a foreign company to fund their efforts, according to a lengthy report by Senate Republicans.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/07/30/republican-report-alleges-billionaires-club-funding-environmental-causes/>

Forbes - Senate Committee Report Details Environmentalists' Inner Workings - 7/30/14 - The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) report dubbed the Billionaire Report meticulously details how the "Billionaires' Club" funds nearly all of the major environmental non-government organizations (NGO), many media outlets, and supposed grassroots activists. The Billionaire Report continues by describing the cozy relationship many environmental groups have with the executive branch and the revolving door that makes this possible. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/chrisprandoni/2014/07/30/breaking-senate-committee-report-details-environmentalists-inner-workings/>

Briertbart (blog) - 5 Ways the "Billionaires' Club" Runs the EPA - 7/30/14 - According to a new report from the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, a "club of billionaires" including Tom Steyer

and Hank Paulson has effectively hijacked the Environmental Protection Agency for its own purposes – to grow the EPA and regulate the economy from stem to stern. <http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2014/07/30/5-ways-billionaires-club>

Chicago Tribune - Commentary: What climate change debate? | Case closed: Scientists agree we are changing the Earth - 7/31/14 - The so-called climate debate presumes that there is, in fact, debate among the scientists who study our climate. This is simply not the case. The truth is that there is a strikingly strong consensus among climate scientists — above 97 percent — that our planet is warming and we are primarily to blame. <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-climate-change-debate-perspec-0730-20140731.0.1628719.story>

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NPR - Pop-Up Books Make Environmental Science Easy-Peasy For Kids - 7/30/14 - For the average school kid, weighty, wonky topics like conservation, climate change and the circular economy might sound off-putting, if not downright dull. Yet Christiane Dorion has sold millions of children's books about these very concepts. The trick? She never mentions them. <http://www.npr.org/2014/07/30/336396785/pop-up-books-make-environmental-science-easy-peasy-for-kids>

Huffington Post (blog) - Clean Power Plan Leads to Healthy Kids - 7/30/14 - It shouldn't be dangerous to breathe. But, for thousands of kids in Atlanta, just going outside is like a fullback going into a game without a helmet - unhealthy and unsafe. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ovie-mughelli/clean-power-plan-leads-to_b_5635254.html

One News Now - Fighting carbon dioxide pointless and expensive, says Heritage - 7/30/14 - A critic of government efforts to clamp down on carbon pollution continues to speak out on that effort. David Kreutzer, research fellow in Energy Economics and Climate Change at the Heritage Foundation, says calling carbon dioxide "pollution" is wrong. <http://www.onenewsnow.com/politics-govt/2014/07/31/curbing-carbon-dioxide-pointless-and-expensive-says-heritage-researcher>

Religious News Service - Faith Leaders Testify In Support Of EPA's Clean Power Plan - 7/30/14 - ore than two dozen faith leaders rallied at public hearings hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency to testify in support of the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan to cut greenhouse gases. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/30/faith-leaders-epa-clean-p_n_5635451.html

Nebraska Watchdog - Senate report blasts Bold Nebraska as faux grassroots group - 7/31/14 - U.S. Senate Republicans call Bold Nebraska a faux grassroots group used by non-Nebraska billionaires to funnel money to advance their political agenda, according to a report released Wednesday. <http://watchdog.org/162645/senate-report-blasts-bold-nebraska-faux-grassroots-group/>

Huffington Post - Utility Trade Group Funds ALEC Attack on Americans Using Solar - 7/30/14 - As the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) prepares to meet in Dallas this week, the Center for Media and Democracy has uncovered new evidence that Edison Electric Institute (EEI) -- the trade association for the U.S. utility industry -- has been funding ALEC's legislative assault on solar energy. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nick-surgey/utility-trade-group-funds_b_5633910.html

NRDC (blog) - FERC Commissioners: Clean Power Plan Doesn't Spell Doom for Grid Reliability - 7/30/14 - All five members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) agreed yesterday that acting on climate change is critical and none of them offered any indication that the U.S. EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan to cut carbon emissions from existing power plants would hamper the reliability of America's electric transmission grid. http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/aclements/ferc_commissioners_clean_power.html

GreenTech Grid - Utility Industry: We Need to Promote Electric Vehicles in Order to 'Remain Viable' - 7/30/14 - Facing flat or declining electricity sales, electric vehicles are a path to growth for power companies. <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/utility-industry-group-calls-electric-vehicles-our-biggest-opportunity>

Christian Science Monitor - Paul Ryan: 'Climate change occurs no matter what' (+video) - 7/30/14 - Rep. Paul Ryan said the Obama administration's efforts to address climate change won't solve the problem but will hurt the US economy. He said new EPA rules are a classic example of executive branch overreach. http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Politics/monitor_breakfast/2014/0730/Paul-Ryan-Climate-change-occurs-no-matter-what-video

Quartz - How solar energy storage could make Tesla much more than an automaker - 7/30/14 - How lucrative could the solar energy storage business be for Tesla? Almost as lucrative as selling cars. <http://qz.com/241973/how-solar-energy-storage-could-make-tesla-much-more-than-an-automaker/>

Denver Business Journal - EPA carbon plan draws discontent inside and outside the hearing rooms - 7/31/14 - If there was one word to describe the majority of sentiments toward the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed plans to cut carbon dioxide emissions, it would be discontent. <http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2014/07/30/epa-public-comments-period-open-inside-and-outside.html>

Business Journals Washington Bureau - Manufacturers contend EPA's ozone rule could be costliest regulation ever - 7/31/14 - Get ready for the costliest federal regulation ever. A new study conducted for the National Association of Manufacturers concludes the Environmental Protection Agency's plan to impose stricter limits on ozone emissions would cost more than \$2 trillion to comply with from 2017 to 2040. <http://www.bizjournals.com/bizjournals/washingtonbureau/2014/07/manufacturers-contend-epas-ozone-rule-could-be.html>

Think Progress - At EPA Hearing, Religious Leaders Call Carbon Pollution ‘An Affront To God’ - 7/31/14 - At least 28 religious leaders urged the EPA at two D.C. hearings on Tuesday and Wednesday not to weaken — and at times to strengthen — its proposed regulations on carbon emissions from coal plants.
<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/07/31/3466008/epa-coal-rules-religious-leaders-support/>

Bloomberg - This Happened While Everybody Was Putting on War Paint for the Obama Climate Hearings - 7/30/14 - In Denver yesterday, an opponent called the White House’s proposed power-plant rules “a war on prosperity.” Some supporters by contrast wore “I (heart) Clean Air” T-shirts to the event. What’s weird is this: Companies set climate goals informed by the same science and internationally agreed upon goals as the president’s, but nobody’s losing their breath attacking or defending them. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-07-30/this-happened-while-everybody-was-putting-on-war-paint-for-the-obama-climate-hearings.html>

Environmental Leader - Executive Survey: Sustainability Important, But More Needs to Be Done - 7/31/14 - Executives increasingly see sustainability as an important aspect of their business, but implementing it as a priority throughout their organizations represents a challenge for many, according to a survey by McKinsey & Company. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/07/31/executive-survey-sustainability-important-but-more-needs-to-be-done/>

Greenwire - Sierra Club asks court to force EPA to respond to ozone petition - 7/30/14 - Tighter ozone limit would shutter a third of U.S. coal plants -- NAM study - 7/31/14 - Tightening the federal ozone standard to levels recommended by public health advocates could shutter a third of the nation's coal-fired power plants and cost the American economy \$270 billion a year, according to a study released today by U.S. manufacturers. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060003888/>

E&E News PM - Energy regulator seeks forum for grid reliability talks with EPA - 7/30/14 - Federal energy regulators should have a "formal role" in advising U.S. EPA on the grid reliability implications of its proposed regulation of carbon emissions at existing power plants, a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission member told lawmakers today. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060003720/>

E&E News PM - At marathon hearing, expressions of sympathy -- for the officials forced to listen - 7/30/14 - While dozens of witnesses gathered here at U.S. EPA's Region 8 headquarters today to speak out on the agency's proposed rule for power plant emissions, Colorado state Sen. Matt Jones (D) offered something different in his testimony: his sympathies to the hearing's examiners. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060003724/>

E&E News PM - Dems introduce bill to restore long-dormant cleanup tax - 7/30/14 - Three Democratic senators this afternoon introduced a bill to restore the "polluter pays" tax that funded U.S. EPA's Superfund cleanups until expiring in 1995. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060003716/>

ClimateWire - Some lawmakers see limited risk from climate change as White House plows ahead with carbon rules - 7/30/14 - Opinions split sharply yesterday on whether tackling climate change would help or hurt the economy, but none of the lawmakers at a Senate hearing directly dismissed its scientific underpinnings.
<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060003763/>

ClimateWire - Climate change is among top national security concerns -- experts - 7/30/14 - National security once referred only to the defense against armed conflict. But today, there is substantial evidence that national security is also affected by a variety of climate-induced threats.
<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060003767/>

E&E News PM - Employees find agency leaders' communication lacking -- report - 7/30/14 - The Partnership for Public Service has found that much of the federal workforce is not satisfied with communications from its agency bosses. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060003807/>

Greenwire - USDA offers tips to farmers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions - 7/31/14 - The Agriculture Department has released what they hope will be the foundation for more and better tools for farmers to cut greenhouse gas emissions from their operations. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060003880/>

E&E News - Stanford researchers claim major breakthrough in lithium battery design - 7/30/14 - A team of Stanford University researchers, including former Energy Secretary Steven Chu, believes it has achieved the "holy grail" of lithium battery design: an anode of pure lithium that could boost the range of an electric car to 300 miles.
<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060003758>

ClimateWire - Concerned citizens bring a personal touch to EPA power plant emission hearings - 7/30/14 - The first day of public listening sessions on U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan (CPP) brought out all the usual suspects: industry groups, environmentalists and policymakers. But the listening sessions, which continue through tomorrow in four cities around the country, also made room for voices less familiar to the D.C. speaking circuit.
<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2014/07/30/stories/1060003764>

Greenwire - House passes bill to strip EPA permitting for spraying over water - 7/31/14 - The House voted this morning 267-161 to strip U.S. EPA's ability to require permits for growers who spray pesticides over water, after a failed attempt to pass the bill with a two-thirds majority Monday.
<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060003883/>

Greenwire - Witnesses rumble over EPA power rule's consequences - 7/30/14 - A House panel today tussled over whether U.S. EPA's premier greenhouse gas rule is an illegal effort by the Obama administration to reshape the electric power system or a stimulus for new industries.

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2014/07/30/stories/1060003802>

BN A - EPA Has Lost Credibility With Land Owners, Small Business, Committee Republicans Say - 7/30/14 - House Small Business Committee Republicans told a top Environmental Protection Agency official July 30 that the agency has lost credibility with farmers, land owners and small businesses over an April proposal they fear would expand EPA jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act to farm ditches and other minor streams.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=50703576&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f3y2v6g2&split=0

BN A - Responsible Industries Would Pay for Cleanup Under Legislation Introduced in Senate - 7/30/14 - A bill (S. 2679) to force industries responsible for contamination of Superfund sites to pay for their cleanup was introduced in the Senate July 29.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=50703558&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f3x4v3v2&split=0

BN A - Archer Daniels Midland to Pay \$430K To Settle Clean Water Act Allegations - 7/30/14 - Archer Daniels Midland Co. will pay \$430,000 to settle allegations that it violated the Clean Water Act by failing to develop emergency-response plans at five large oil storage facilities, the Environmental Protection Agency said July 30.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=50703574&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f3y2v0d0&split=0

BN A - Speakers: EPA Proposed Power Plant Rules Fall Short, Trade One Fossil Fuel for Another - 7/30/14 - Several speakers focused on the flaws and shortcomings of the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rules on power plant carbon emissions on the second day of testimony at a Denver hearing.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=50703581&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f3y4t3a1&split=0

BN A - Commenters Question Heavy Reliance On Natural Gas in Power Plant Rule - 7/30/14 - Proposed rules on power plant carbon emissions should put a stronger emphasis on adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency, rather than encouraging a massive shift from coal to natural gas, environmental advocates told the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on July 30, its second day of public hearings in Atlanta.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=50703575&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f3y2v5w2&split=0

BN A - Co-ops, Small Utilities See Few Options For Compliance With Power Plant Proposal - 7/30/14 - Electricity cooperatives and small utilities with few generating assets told the Environmental Protection Agency July 30 that they would have few options to comply with a proposal to limit carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=50703568&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0f3y2q1y8&split=0

Inside EPA - EPA Planning Rule To Clarify 'Assumable' Waters For State 404 Programs - 7/30/14 - EPA is planning to craft a rule to clarify what types of waters are "assumable" under the Clean Water Act (CWA) in response to calls from states that clarity is needed. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-08/01/2014/epa-planning-rule-to-clarify-assumable-waters-for-state-404-programs/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - Senate Democrats Seek To Expand Superfund Tax To Tar Sands, Shale Oil - 7/30/14 - A group of Senate Democrats is seeking to reinstate and expand the long-expired Superfund taxes by subjecting newer oil types, such as tar sands and shale oil, to the tax requirement. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-08/01/2014/senate-democrats-seek-to-expand-superfund-tax-to-tar-sands-shale-oil/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Cites FDA Ruling In New Bid To Dismiss Mississippi Nutrient Petition - 7/30/14 - EPA is touting a novel appellate decision that narrowly reads the Supreme Court's landmark 2007 ruling in Massachusetts v. EPA requiring agencies to respond substantively to petitions, hoping to use the new decision -- which deals with livestock feed rules -- to support its dismissal of environmentalists' petition seeking stronger nutrient rules in the Mississippi River Basin. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-08/01/2014/epa-cites-fda-ruling-in-new-bid-to-dismiss-mississippi-nutrient-petition/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - Advocates Expand FOIA Efforts To EPA In Bid For Data To Fight Utility ELG - 7/31/14 - Environmentalists are expanding their Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) litigation against several agencies to include EPA, hoping to obtain documents they believe will show the administration weakened EPA's proposed utility effluent rule. <http://cleanenergyreport.com/201407312478257/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/advocates-expand-foia-efforts-to-epa-in-bid-for-data-to-fight-utility-elg/menu-id-202.html>

Inside EPA - Attorney Questions Utility Of Toxic Substances Control Act Reform Efforts - 7/31/14 - A prominent Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) attorney is questioning whether Congress and stakeholders should continue pushing long-stalled efforts to reform the 38-year-old statute, which many have long criticized for failing to adequately control industrial chemicals or instill confidence in its controls. <http://insideepa.com/201407312478260/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/attorney-questions-utility-of-toxic-substances-control-act-reform-efforts/menu-id-95.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

Final Report on Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex Shows Facility is Suitable for Public Use; No Further Action Needed – 7/31/14 – Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

7/31/14 – Missouri Environmental & Energy Conference at the Lake, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: David Cozad, 7587

8/6/14 - St. Louis Regional Chamber of Commerce Meeting (Clean Power Plan), St. Louis, Mo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

8/11/14 – Black & Veatch Greenhouse Gas Strategies Forum (Clean Power Plan), Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

8/13/14 – Iowa Association of Business & Industry (Clean Power Plan), Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

8/14/14 - Agricultural Outreach, Sedalia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

9/3/14 - Nancy Stoner and Mike Shapiro Visit R7, Regional Office. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

9/10/14 - Kansas City Steel Redevelopment/Walmart Grand Opening, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

9/10/14 – U.S. Health & Human Services Senior Leadership Meeting (Clean Power Plan),s Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

DRA:

8/20/14 – Tribal Consultation Training, Regional Office. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

None

WWPD

7/31/14 – Speech on Waters of the U.S. at the Environmental Conference at the Lake, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Steve Kovac, 7698

7/31/14 - Worker Protection Standard Stakeholder Meeting; Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Katie Howard, 7861

8/18-21/14 – Purdue Pesticide Program Certification and Training Workshop, Indianapolis, Ind. Contact: Douglas Jones, 7592

8/20/14 – Water Quality Standards Triennial Review with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: John Reyna, 7021

Chicago Tribune Commentary

What climate change debate?

Case closed: Scientists agree we are changing the Earth

By Seth B. Darling

July 31, 2014

Already in the first six months of 2014, Sunday broadcast news shows have spent more time covering climate change than they did over the past four years combined. This expanded coverage comes on the heels of reports by the National Climate Assessment that warned of the already damaging effects of disruptions to our climate and by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change alerting us — once again — to an increasingly dire future across the globe. Dig a little deeper, however, and it is clear that our civic conversation on this topic remains

shrouded in misconception.

Mainstream outlets such as ABC's "This Week" and NBC's "Meet The Press" opted to provide substantial airtime to climate skeptics in addition to the climate science experts, in the misguided model of providing a "balanced" perspective. The so-called climate debate presumes that there is, in fact, debate among the scientists who study our climate.

This is simply not the case.

The truth is that there is a strikingly strong consensus among climate scientists — above 97 percent — that our planet is warming and we are primarily to blame. It's near impossible to get 97 percent of scientists to agree about much of anything beyond the basic laws of physics. The fact that the consensus is this broad tells us it is time to end the idea that there is any debate in the scientific community.

Because the mass media have propped up a false debate, the general public is understandably confused. There are things we are still learning about climate and our effect on it, but the basic concepts attacked by skeptics are those that the scientific community has established with considerable evidence. Most skeptic arguments are built on a common error: cherry-picking bits of data without seeing the big picture.

Cherry-picking lies behind the claims that the glaciers are growing and that the planet isn't getting warmer. Yes, some glaciers are growing, but many more are shrinking. Yes, there are certain times when certain regions of the world become cooler, but overall there is no doubt that the average global temperature is rising over time. It's called global warming for a reason.

It is also easy to fall into the trap of confusing local weather and global climate. The fact that last winter was bitterly cold in much of North America is not a sign that global warming is a hoax — other regions of the world experienced unusually warm temperatures in the same period, and climate change can be assessed only on much longer time scales. This is also an example of an extreme weather phenomenon we are likely to experience more frequently as climate change becomes more severe.

One of the most dangerous skeptic myths argues that we are indeed changing our climate but that a warming planet is really a good thing. No doubt there will be some limited benefits of climate change, at least in the short term. Melting of the Arctic Sea ice, for example, will open up new navigation routes as well as untapped oil and gas resources.

But the negative consequences dwarf the handful of beneficial outcomes. Agriculture will be ravaged by more

severe droughts and floods, rising oceans will inundate coastal regions, geopolitical instability will be rife. Projections of costs to the global economy are in the hundreds of trillions of dollars, and the human suffering will be unprecedented — often affecting the poor more than those of us most responsible for the fossil fuel emissions.

Regardless of one's political standpoint or whether one believes it is happening, Earth's climate is changing and we are the root cause. There is no climate debate — at least not among the folks who have actually studied the science — and we should all stop pretending there is one.

The responsibility for maintaining our planet's climate lies with each of us. Power plants may represent some of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, but we are all consumers of the power they produce.

This isn't about pointing fingers. It's about understanding the problem and, more important, taking action. There are solutions available to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. But time is short and the task is daunting in its scale.

We can debate which solutions offer the greatest benefit but not whether there is a problem. That case is closed. Now it's time to recognize that failure to act puts our children's future — and that of all subsequent generations — in peril.

Seth B. Darling is a scientist specializing in energy research at the Center for Nanoscale Materials at Argonne National Laboratory, a fellow at the Institute for Molecular Engineering at the University of Chicago and co-author of the forthcoming book "How to Change Minds About Our Changing Climate."

Des Moines Register

State environmental protection commission to consider livestock oversight rules Aug. 19

Donnelle Eller, deller@dmreg.com 12:50 p.m. CDT July 31, 2014

The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission will consider adopting rules that outline oversight of concentrated animal feeding operations at its Aug. 19 meeting.

The meeting begins at 10 a.m. and will be held at Wallace State Office Building Auditorium in Des Moines.

Groups like Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement have lobbied the commission to adopt stricter oversight rules for livestock producers.

The Des Moines-based grassroots environmental group says more livestock operations should be required to get permits and that the state should include a provision that allows it to shutdown feeding operations that have three manure spills.

Activists also have called for five commission members with ties to cattle or pig production to recuse themselves from voting on proposed clean water rules that govern the industry. Leaders have said state law requires some members to represent the agriculture industry.

Des Moines Register

Iowa's largest solar farm in operation

Donnelle Eller, deller@dmreg.com 11:56 p.m. CDT July 30, 2014

A half dozen years ago, little solar energy was generated in southeast Iowa, said Warren McKenna, CEO of Farmers Electric Cooperative.

Today, the rural utility, along with local, state and federal leaders, will celebrate the operation of the state's largest solar farm near Kalona, just south of Iowa City.

"In 2008, there was just one little bitty array in Johnson, Washington and Iowa counties. There were four modules. I don't know how many modules there are now, but it's in the thousands" — on homes, businesses, and pig and cattle operations, McKenna said. "It's really grown here."

Farmers Electric's new farm adds 2,900 solar panels to the region's growing base of sun-powered energy. Eagle Point Solar of Dubuque built and owns the farm; the cooperative will buy the power and take possession after a decade.

The farm will generate up to 1.1 million kilowatt hours a year, or enough energy to power about 120 homes.

Josh Mandelbaum, an attorney at Environmental Law & Policy Center in Des Moines, said the farm is a good example, along with a proposed project in north-central Iowa, that solar can be a good investment for utilities.

Heartland Power Cooperative, with 5,200 members, said earlier this month it is investigating options for a \$1.5 million array that would be home to 1,200 solar panels near St. Ansgar in north-central Iowa.

“We hope to see more utilities figure out ways to make solar work,” said Mandelbaum, whose groups and others like it are pushing for more solar adoption. “I don’t think that this will be the biggest project for long. Utilities are well positioned to build large projects and advance solar in the state.”

By harnessing the sun, instead of tapping energy generated by coal-fired power plants, the solar farm avoids the creation of about 2.1 million pounds of carbon pollution each year.

The farm gives the cooperative “the highest per-capita solar generation rate of any utility in the country,” with the potential for 1,800 watts of solar power per customer, it said.

McKenna points to state and federal tax credits, along with recent incentives from investor-owned Alliant Energy, for helping growth. Iowa lawmakers agreed this year to triple to \$4.5 million the tax credits available for solar projects, given the demand for incentives.

With a state Supreme Court ruling that says nonprofits can enter into power purchase agreements, Barry Shear, president of Eagle Point Solar, said he believes that solar development should take off. “It’s right around the corner,” he said. Solar “should be everywhere. It provides the peak electricity that we need and it’s good for the planet.”

Farmers Electric Cooperative, with just 650 members, started looking at solar energy in 2008, primarily because of rising energy costs. The group wanted to get 15 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2025, a goal it expects to reach by the end of 2015.

“We don’t have wind in southeast Iowa,” he said. “Solar was our only option.”

The cooperative began its foray into solar by adding panels to local schools.

Then it created the community solar garden that families, businesses and nonprofits such as churches could buy into — initially for \$250 for a module. It's now \$475. The cooperative has a waiting list.

"I've never been involved in anything that's had this much positive feedback," he said. The cooperative continues to own some of the community garden array's infrastructure, maintaining the operation and insuring it.

Altogether, businesses and families generate about 400 megawatts of solar energy, said McKenna, who estimates that about \$5 million has been invested in the region's solar energy.

For large energy users like a hog confinement, the payback to the farmer can occur as quickly as five years.

For residential users, the payback may take a decade or so, McKenna said. The reduced energy bills help families and businesses. "For some people, it's a greener mindset — they want to be more responsible," he said.